

Meeting Minutes
Paducah Site Specific Advisory Board
July 15, 1999

The July 15, 1999, Paducah Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) meeting took place at the Paducah Information Age Park Resource Center in Paducah at 5:30 p.m.

The following board members were present: Nola Courtney, Mark Donham, Judy Ingram, Vicki Jones, Merryman Kemp, Linda Long, Doug Raper, Craig Rhodes, Jim Smart, and Bill Tanner. *Ex officio* member present was Todd Adams. The facilitator present was Steve Kay. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) federal coordinator present was John D. Sheppard. Brian Begley, LeRoy Chittenden, Mike Guffey, Linda Martin, and Jon Maybriar, all of Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM) were present. Also present were the following members of the public and employees, contractors, and subcontractors of the DOE: Jimmy Massey, Shirley Speer, and Debbie Wattier.

Agenda

Steve Kay called the meeting to order and asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. The agenda was amended to add a briefing by Nola Courtney on the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) National Transportation Workshop conference call. Craig Rhodes added the SSAB website. The modified agenda was approved and adopted.

Facilitator's Orientation

Steve Kay reviewed highlights of the SSAB bylaws. Kay said the facilitator's role is to help the board stay on the agenda, to reach closure on issues, and to check for consensus when there are decisions to be made. His role also includes making sure all views are heard and valued until a decision is reached.

Minutes

The minutes from the June 17, 1999, were amended to clarify a statement by Mark Donham in the Lifecycle Baseline section. In the Transportation Workshop section Nola Courtney added, "and Doug Raper" as planning to participate in an upcoming conference call. She also requested the addition of "SSAB" to the National Transportation Working Group title. Minutes were approved by consensus and adopted.

Public Comments from Guests

There were no comments made during this period.

Information Handouts

John Sheppard handed out DOE News Release titled, "Richardson Unveils Health Initiative for DOE Workers." He also handed out "Instructions to log on and participate in the Paducah TCE Discussion Forum," including the website address for the Innovative Treatment Remediation Demonstration (ITRD). Mark Donham asked whether groundwater information from the June ITRD session at Paducah would be available. Sheppard said this information is expected to be part of the minutes from that session when posted.

Environmental Management and Enrichment Facilities Project Updates

Vortec Update

Linda Martin of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management (KDWM) asked if DOE planned to go forward with the Vortec project. John Sheppard said the status is that DOE will issue a revised Draft Environmental Assessment soon.

Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF₆) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Update

A fact sheet was provided on the PEIS for disposition of DUF₆ and the DOE's Final Plan for Conversion of DUF₆. The status of the conversion plants that DOE plans to build at Paducah and Portsmouth was discussed. The number of jobs that would be created by the new plants has not been determined. Mark Donham said that the economic impact of the plant is of significant interest, but that environmental issues should be considered. Donham asked if a whole new cylinder wash process would be used at the new plants. Jimmy Massey said that the current washing system has been effective for years at the existing gaseous diffusion plants. This system would not have the capacity for both the gaseous diffusion plant and the DUF₆ conversion plant.

In a month, DOE plans to issue a Draft Request for Proposals for the conversion plants and the current inspection and maintenance program for the cylinders.

Sitewide Cumulative Effects

Mark Donham said that as soon as a decision is made about a Sitewide Cumulative Effects Analysis this subject would be relative. Merryman Kemp suggested leaving this subject on the agenda as a reminder to ask about impacts. Donham said that a Sitewide Cumulative Effects Analysis needs to be done earlier than DOE plans. Bill Tanner said that a sitewide analysis might not be needed if the risk analyses done at the project level is comprehensive. He suggested that the board request an overview on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA)/cumulative effects process by Rich Bonzcek and David Allen. There was a decision made to put this on the agenda for the September meeting and devote time to this in order to make a decision on the board's position. Merryman Kemp said that written material would be helpful. John Sheppard suggested that members review past meeting minutes and handouts for background. Shirley Speer noted that the member orientation kit has NEPA information.

Waste Area Group 6

No comments.

ITRD

Discussion was held regarding the ITRD meeting in June. Mark Donham, Craig Rhodes, and Jim Smart attended part of the meeting. Mark Donham stated that at the ITRD meeting someone had said the highest concentration of TCE in groundwater is near the location of the railroad cars transfer area at the C-400 Chemical Cleaning Facility at the plant. Craig Rhodes said that it also was stated that cleanup could not be done in that switch area because the crane is still in operation for current production. Steve Kay asked: Is it that operations take precedence over remediation? John Sheppard and Jimmy Massey said that it is complicated to do environmental remediation on any operating plant. Brian Begley (KDWM) said the ITRD process looks at limitations and looks at technologies that are available to deal with the limitations. Sheppard said DOE is looking at a broad spectrum of technologies that can be used during operations. Massey said the Groundwater Record of Decision will show alternatives.

Discussion of the importance of early involvement in the decision-making process took place. John Sheppard added that being at the ITRD meetings is an early-on information opportunity for the board. Mark Donham suggested looking at the CERCLA regulations. Sheppard noted that the CERCLA process provides opportunities for public involvement. He added that forums such as the ITRD are helpful for regulators and the SSAB because they hear the whole technical discussion. Jimmy Massey said that all documents prior to the feasibility study have been subject to public comments. Jim Smart commented that he had appreciated getting to attend the ITRD meeting and thought the information was helpful. Linda Martin of KDWM noted that the SSAB can ask representatives of the Kentucky Environmental Cabinet who serve on the ITRD Paducah team to make presentations to the SSAB. Brian Begley of KDWM said that as a member of the ITRD team that he could bring ideas from the SSAB to the team, and provide information to the SSAB.

Steve Kay summarized that the board will keep the ITRD/Groundwater Operable Unit process on the agenda for discussions and updates on progress, and that members can monitor the ITRD website also for updates.

Paths to Closure

Mark Donham discussed areas of the May 1999 DOE document, *"Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure,"* which has been provided to the board. He said the board should be aware of various sections of the document that would be of interest. These were:

- the plan to: maximize use of the on-site landfill through revisions to the landfill waste acceptance criteria.
- the "end use scenario" in the document states that the burial grounds will be kept in place with long-term monitoring.
- two actions listed as significant critical path items: removal of scrap metal and shipment of transuranic (TRU) wastes to Oak Ridge and then to Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

- plans to offset costs of scrap metal by selling some.
- the "Priorities List" has been taken out of the *Paths to Closure* document.

Bill Tanner asked if DOE plans to involve the private sector in the scrap metal removal project. Jimmy Massey said that is the plan. Tanner said that if the government breaks even on the project, that is positive because the scrap would be removed. He said it would be good to keep the scrap metal project on the agenda for periodic updates.

Community Relations

Judy Ingram provided copies of the SSAB's ad for the DOE July 27, 1999, workshop, a handout for the workshop, and poster for the workshop for review by the board, and comments were noted. The board will host an information table at the event.

Judy Ingram reported that the subcommittee is offering an exclusive story to *The Louisville Courier-Journal*. The paper's local reporter will be invited to sit down with the board and different people involved and do a broad, open interview. An informal proposal was made and approved. John Sheppard asked if this interview would be a special meeting of the board. It was agreed to keep it an informal meeting.

The board decided not to run the advertisement on its meetings in *The Paducah Sun* for the August meeting.

Consultant

Bill Tanner handed out copies of responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a technical consultant to the board and said he needed comments by July 26, 1999. Conference call will be set up at a later date with candidates.

Membership

Membership issues were discussed by Nola Courtney. She noted that Vicki Jones, David Fuller, Nola Courtney, and Greg Waldrop had served on the board for two years and that they would need to decide whether or not they would continue to serve.

Transportation Working Group

Nola Courtney reported on the SSAB Transportation Working Group conference call. She said they mainly discussed the roles and functions of the group and the fact that there must be some common concerns regarding transportation issues. Courtney and Doug Raper will be representing the board on this group.

Co-Chair Discussion

After discussion about nominations, Bill Tanner suggested trying to have 75 percent of the board present at the next meeting in order to decide whether to change the bylaws to have a chairperson rather than co-chairs.

Workplan

The workplan is going to be addressed by Nola Courtney and Mark Donham at the August meeting.

Tours

It was suggested and approved that the September 16, 1999, board meeting will include a tour of the Surface Water Operable Unit (SWOU) locations. The tour will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the DOE Site Office at the PGDP, and the formal meeting will follow the tour, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the DOE Site Office.

Financial Update

Financial report was given by John Sheppard.

Site Specific Advisory Board Letterhead

The present letterhead was approved.

Status of Name Change Proposal

John Sheppard reported that it was not possible to change the name officially, but the board could use the name: Paducah DOE Environmental Management SSAB, also known as the Citizen's Advisory Board if they desired. It was decided to adopt this name.

Webpage

Craig Rhodes addressed a need for webpage to be updated. He is going to e-mail information to Shirley Speer for changes and updates.

Member Orientation Kit

Member kit was approved and will be provided to all board members.

Jim Smart asked about the board's plan to write a letter to send to Congressional representatives, supporting funding for cleanup and other DOE projects at the PGDP. Merryman Kemp said it needed to be done as soon as possible. The proposal was made and approved to empower the Community Outreach subcommittee to write letter, e-mail to co-chairs, sign and send.

Merryman Kemp made an additional proposal: that individual board members also write letters. Samples of such letter will be provided at the August SSAB meeting.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be held August 19, 1999, at the Information Age Park Resource Center at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be in the Training Room (left side of Great Room) again for August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.